



**Northeast
Utilities System**

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April 1, 2005

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, Second Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

**RE: Western Massachusetts Electric Company Semi-Annual Double Pole Report,
D.T.E. 03-87**

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

In its November 28, 2003 report relative to a plan to eliminate the backlog of double utility poles within the Commonwealth, pursuant to Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2003, Section 110 ("Report"), the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") required pole owners to submit detailed plans for eliminating the backlog of double poles as soon as reasonably practicable. Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO") filed its plan for eliminating the backlog of double poles on January 27, 2004, and its first Semi-Annual Double Pole Report on October 28, 2004. WMECO also provided yearly double pole progress and strategy for pole management in its 2005 Annual Reliability Filing, which was filed with the Department on December 30, 2004. WMECO now submits its scheduled Semi-Annual Double Pole Report. Enclosed for filing are the original and nine copies of this status report.

In the time since its last semi-annual report, WMECO has concentrated further on ensuring the accuracy of the information in the PLM System and trained new users to enter and retrieve information from the system. WMECO continues to meet with Verizon MA on a monthly basis to discuss work-related issues, including double poles. Discussions have been held with other attendees regarding transfer of their facilities, as well. While the rate of double pole removals during the winter months was not what was anticipated, with the return of better weather, WMECO plans to concentrate on its double pole removals, with the goal of eliminating the backlog of poles that are ready to remove.

For the period October 22, 2004 through March 25, 2005, there were 242 poles entered in the PLM System and a total of 326 poles were removed. This pole activity represents pole sets and removals by both WMECO and Verizon MA. WMECO continues to work collaboratively with the other Massachusetts utilities and InQuest Technologies on developing system improvements to the PLM System. A users' group meeting between the utilities and InQuest Technologies was held last November.

The present status of double poles in WMECO's service territory is listed below.

Double Pole Status as of March 25, 2005

<u>WMECO</u> <u>to Shift</u>	<u>Others</u> <u>to Shift</u>	<u>Verizon MA</u> <u>to Shift</u>	<u>Ready to Remove-</u> <u>Verizon MA</u>	<u>Ready to Remove-</u> <u>WMECO</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Double Poles</u>
99	61	779	29	144	1112

Attached to this filing are the following Appendixes providing additional detailed breakdown by Town of the information presented above:

Appendix I- Double Pole Summary by Location Report
Appendix II- Double Pole Progress Report

The PLM System is proving to be an effective tool in managing double pole activity. WMECO is committed to work toward the elimination of the double pole backlog in the towns that it serves. Please contact me or John Tulloch at telephone (413)787-9018, or email: tullojs@nu.com, should you have any questions in regard to this filing.

Very truly yours,

Donald M. Bishop
Manager, Regulatory Policy - Massachusetts

Attachments